

We are outraged at the proposal coming to vote at the FCC that would relax ownership restrictions of media outlets. We, as citizen owners of the public resource of broadcast spectrum, demand more, not less regulation. Indeed usage of these airwaves should be taxed regressively in direct proportion to the gratuitousness of the content. For example, pornography and the Super Bowl should be taxed at 99% of gross advertising revenues. Proceeds used to fund and broadcast work of artists with performances and commissions for new compositional works of dance, music, independent film, sculpture and art, for example. Indeed, the incentive for creation of high-profit business models of multinational media conglomerates should be summarily removed. These companies have plenty of freedom of expression without the monopolization of public airwaves. This is the role of the FCC as a government agency, as it must represent the interest of the public. The assertion that the public is given a voice to vote with their viewing habits is specious given the choices currently available. Localism of ownership of broadcast outlets is the basis of the survival of democracy, and these companies are licking their chops at the opportunity represented by this initiative to coopt democracy all over the world. The public interest must be enforced in the public trust granted to the media companies through the issuance of a broadcast license. In this case of this proposed regulatory boondoggle, it must be inflicted.